

CLAIMS

1. A method (300) for a first device controlling an external device, comprising:

5 setting in the first device one of first and second modes, wherein said first mode is set in response to making a connection to said external device via a data bus and said second mode is set in response to terminating said connection to said external device via said data bus;

10 receiving a first command signal of a first control protocol from a user input device;

 generating a second command signal of a second control protocol responsive to said first command signal and outputting said second command signal to said external device via said data bus if said first mode is set; and

15 performing a function responsive to said first command signal without generating and outputting said second command signal if said second mode is set.

2. The method (300) of claim 1, wherein said data bus includes an IEEE-1394 bus.

20 3. The method (300) of claim 1, wherein said second control protocol includes AV/C protocol.

4. The method (300) of claim 1, wherein:
 said user input device includes an up arrow key;
25 said first command signal is generated by said user input device responsive to user depression of said up arrow key; and
 said second command signal represents a next track command.

5. The method (300) of claim 1, wherein:
30 said user input device includes a down arrow key;
 said first command signal is generated by said user input device responsive to user depression of said down arrow key; and
 said second command signal represents a previous track command.

6. The method (300) of claim 1, wherein:
said user input device includes a right arrow key;
said first command signal is generated by said user input device responsive to
5 user depression of said right arrow key; and
said second command signal represents a skip forward command.

7. The method (300) of claim 1, wherein:
said user input device includes an left arrow key;
10 said first command signal is generated by said user input device responsive to
user depression of said left arrow key; and
said second command signal represents a replay command.

8. The method (300) of claim 1, wherein:
15 said user input device includes a clear key;
said first command signal is generated by said user input device responsive to
user depression of said clear key; and
said second command signal represents a delete command.

20 9. An apparatus (20), comprising:
input/output means (13) for enabling signal transfer between said apparatus
(20) and an external device (40) via a data bus (30);
processing means (14) for detecting a first command signal of a first control
protocol from a user input device (10), and for detecting one of first and second
25 modes of said apparatus (20);

wherein said processing means (14) detects said first mode in response to
making a connection between said apparatus (20) and said external device (40) via
said data bus (30), and detects said second mode in response to terminating said
connection between said apparatus (20) and said external device (40) via said data
30 bus (30);

wherein said processing means (14) enables said input/output means (13) to
output a second command signal of a second control protocol to said external device

(40) via said data bus (30) responsive to said first command signal if said first mode is detected; and

wherein said processing means (14) enables a function of said apparatus (20) responsive to said first command signal without enabling output of said second command signal to said external device (40) if said second mode is detected.

10. The apparatus (20) of claim 9, wherein said data bus (30) includes an IEEE-1394 bus.

11. The apparatus (20) of claim 9, wherein said second control protocol includes AV/C protocol.

12. The apparatus (20) of claim 9, wherein:
said user input device (10) includes an up arrow key;
said first command signal is generated by said user input device (10) responsive to user depression of said up arrow key; and
said second command signal represents a next track command.

13. The apparatus (20) of claim 9, wherein:
said user input device (10) includes a down arrow key;
said first command signal is generated by said user input device (10) responsive to user depression of said down arrow key; and
said second command signal represents a previous track command.

14. The apparatus (20) of claim 9, wherein:
said user input device (10) includes a right arrow key;
said first command signal is generated by said user input device (10) responsive to user depression of said right arrow key; and
said second command signal represents a skip forward command.

15. The apparatus (20) of claim 9, wherein:

said user input device (10) includes an left arrow key;

said first command signal is generated by said user input device (10)
5 responsive to user depression of said left arrow key; and
said second command signal represents a replay command.

16. The apparatus (20) of claim 9, wherein:

said user input device (10) includes a clear key;

10 said first command signal is generated by said user input device (10)
responsive to user depression of said clear key; and
said second command signal represents a delete command.

17. A television signal receiver (20), comprising:

15 an input/output terminal (13) operative to enable signal transfer between said
television signal receiver (20) and an external device (40) via a data bus (30);

a processor (14) operative to detect a first command signal of a first control
protocol from a user input device (10), and for detecting one of first and second
modes of said television signal receiver (20);

20 wherein said processor (14) detects said first mode in response to making a
connection between said television signal receiver (20) and said external device (40)
via said data bus (30), and detects said second mode in response to terminating said
connection between said television signal receiver (20) and said external device (40)
via said data bus (30);

25 wherein said processor (14) enables said input/output terminal (13) to output a
second command signal of a second control protocol to said external device (40) via
said data bus (30) responsive to said first command signal if said first mode is
detected; and

30 wherein said processor (14) enables a function of said television signal
receiver (20) responsive to said first command signal without enabling output of said
second command signal to said external device (40) if said second mode is detected.

18. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 17, wherein said data bus (30) includes an IEEE-1394 bus.

19. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 17, wherein said second
5 control protocol includes AV/C protocol.

20. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 17, wherein:
said user input device (10) includes an up arrow key;
said first command signal is generated by said user input device (10)
10 responsive to user depression of said up arrow key; and
said second command signal represents a next track command.

21. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 17, wherein:
said user input device (10) includes a down arrow key;
15 said first command signal is generated by said user input device (10)
responsive to user depression of said down arrow key; and
said second command signal represents a previous track command.

22. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 17, wherein:
20 said user input device (10) includes a right arrow key;
said first command signal is generated by said user input device (10)
responsive to user depression of said right arrow key; and
said second command signal represents a skip forward command.

23. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 17, wherein:
25 said user input device (10) includes an left arrow key;
said first command signal is generated by said user input device (10)
responsive to user depression of said left arrow key; and
said second command signal represents a replay command.

24. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 17, wherein:

said user input device (10) includes a clear key;

said first command signal is generated by said user input device (10)

5 responsive to user depression of said clear key; and

said second command signal represents a delete command.